AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE. NO. 1205 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1934 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 24, NO. 20

Men love to hear of their power, but have an extreme dislikeh to be told of their duty.—Burke.

Editorials

"Kick Back" Racket Investigation

There is some delay in the adoption by the Senate of the resolution introduced by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, providing for a nation-wide investigation of the "kick back" racket imposed by contractors on Federal construction projects. But the unanimous report of the Committee favoring the resolution insures action before Congress adjourns.

The "kick back" racket is the practice of evading statutory or other wage provisions by forcing the worker to pay for his job, that is, to "kick back" part of his wages to his employer.

Sometimes the employer makes the deduction direct from the pay envelope. Sometimes the worker is paid by check, which he is required to cash at the company office, where a portion of the wages is deducted.

In testimony before the Senate, Committee it was stated that in the capital of the Nation employes on Federal building projects were compelled to pay contractors $2 every morning to go to work. One affidavit charged that a worker on the Chicago Post Office "kicked back" $472.50 in order to hold his job.

This reprehensible form of graft by low-wage contractors has been imposed on workers regardless of the Bacon-Davis prevailing wage rate law, which in many instances contractors have technically observed by paying the legal wage rate and then compelled the workers to "kick back" a portion of it.

Confronted with indisputable testimony regarding the prevalence of this abuse, the Senate Committee on Labor and Education requested authority to conduct an investigation of wages and wage-opportunities practices on all Federal projects. The probe will undoubtedly reveal that Government contractors all over the country have unlawfully taken hundreds of thousands of dollars from the workers as the price of the jobs which they had to have in order to provide a living for themselves and their families.

The investigation should be promptly made, and the necessary agencies of the Government mobilized to compel these grafters on the workers wages to restore to the persons whose rights have been violated every dollar taken by the "kick back." In addition, suitable penalties should be imposed on employers who have so atrociously violated the fundamental equities which should prevail throughout the realm of industrial relations.

A Pernicious Practice

The unpatriotic filibuster recently used by Representative Thomas L. Blanton of Texas to prevent a vote in the Federal House of Representatives on the Capper-Norton old-age pension bill for the District of Columbia is a well-defined illustration of a parliamentary practice that should receive little toleration.

The bill had been favorably reported by the House Committee on the District of Columbia, whose chairman is Representative Mary T. Norton of New Jersey. Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas and Representative Norton sponsored the measure.

Representative Norton called up the bill on the one day in three weeks devoted by the House of Representatives to measures concerning the District of Columbia.

Representative Blanton declared his opposition to the measure, which was his parliamentary right. But he carried his opposition to the extent of using that most objectionable form of parliamentary obstruction, a one-man filibuster, to prevent a vote. He made a one-hour speech which he admitted was merely a device to kill time. When objection was raised to this procedure he retorted that "under the rules of the House I can use my time in discussing any subject that suits me." He blocked a unanimous consent agreement to limit general debate. He insisted on having the bill read at length. He raised colorless points of order to consume time. He resorted to a number of other devices to block action on a meritorious bill to give the dependent aged of the Nation's capital that security from want which is the underlying principle in old-age pensions.

Opposition to any bill which he opposes, regardless of the merit of his position, is the parliamentary right of a Member of Congress. But that opposition should not be carried to the extent of a one-man filibuster to prevent action on a measure on which other Members are ready to vote. Such a practice is pernicious. It is especially pernicious toward the end of a session of Congres when forced delay may cause a measure to be lost in the volume of parliamentary business incident to such a period.

One man should not be permitted to run the House of Representatives.

UNION RECOGNITION WON BY GAS STATION STRIKE

Cleveland Settlement Also Protects Strikers from Discrimination and Provides Machinery for Wages and Working Conditions Adjustment.

Cleveland, Ohio.—The strike of hundreds of gasoline station attendants sponsored by Gasoline Station Operators Union No. 18378, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, was settled by both the union and the employers accepting the agreement submitted by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, who is also Petroleum Administrator.

The agreement provides for full recognition of the union and direct negotiation between representatives of the employers and the union to settle various points in dispute, with provision for an arbitration board if direct negotiations break down.

Text of Agreement

The text of the agreement, which was submitted by Secretary Ickes and the Petroleum Labor Policy Board, of which Wm. M. Leiserson is chairman, follows:

"1. Strike to be called off immediately.

"2. All strikers will be taken back to work without discrimination.

"3. Immediately after the resumption of work, and thereafter, there shall negotiations with representatives of Gas Station Operators Union No. 18378 for such employees as the union represents, and will continue the negotiations until a mutually satisfactory agreement is reached covering terms and conditions of employment.

"4. In cases where a dispute arises as to whether employees of any company have been discriminated against by Union No. 18378 (which employers recognize as a legitimate bargaining agency) or any other agency, as their accredited representatives, such dispute shall be settled by an election conducted by the Department of Labor for that companies' employees.

Provision for Arbitration Board

"5. The interested parties pledge themselves to make every effort to consummate a satisfactory agreement on all matters in dispute within fourteen days after the resumption of work, unless the time be extended by mutual consent. In the event that it is found impossible after full negotiation and frank effort to reach an agreement as above specified, questions of wages and working conditions remaining to be adjusted shall be submitted to a Board of Arbitration jointly set up, one by each representative of both parties with an impartial chairman mutually agreed upon. In the event of failure to agree upon said chairman within three days after Arbitration Board is set up, such chairman shall be appointed by Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Petroleum Administrator, or by Dr. William M. Leiserson, Chairman, Petroleum Labor Policy Board. As to the differences to be arbitrated shall be within reasonable limitations.

"6. Changes in wages and working conditions resulting from negotiations and any arbitration awards will be retroactive to the time that employees return to work."

UPHOLSTERERS STRIKE TO ENFORCE WAGE PACT

Sheboygan, Wis.—Sixty-five members of Upholsterers' Union No. 133 walked out May 1 when one of the Northern Furniture Company here refused to abide by the wage and re-employment provisions of the agreement by which five and one-half weeks' strike was settled a few days before.

According to union officials the agreement required the immediate adjustment of piece rates to make it possible for "scrapers" and female employees on other than upholstering work to earn 40 cents an hour and both male and female upholsterers 50 cents an hour.

It also provided for immediate re-employment of all upholstering department workers who were on strike on April 20 when the first strike was declared. Strikers declared that the secretary of the company refused to adjust the piece rates in accordance with the agreement terms and laughed at the agreement, stating that the "50-cent rate for upholsterers was a thing of the past."

Union officials declared that their members would stay out until they are guaranteed the minimum wage rates agreed upon when the first strike was settled, and said they would also stand firm on the agreement that there shall be no discrimination against strikers in re-employment.

A. F. OF L. OPPOSES RICH CHILD LABOR BILL

Record of Pennsylvania Representative Sponsoring Measure Is 100 Per Cent Unfavorable to the Workers.

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor is specifically and positively opposed to the Federal Child Labor Bill (H. R. 6184) introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Robert F. Rich of Pennsylvania.

The position of the Federation was made known in a letter from W. C. Roberts and W. C. Hushing, legislative representatives of the Federation, to Hon. William P. Connery, Jr., chairman of the House Labor Committee, to whom the bill was referred.

Seeks to Discredit Congress

"Behind H. R. 6184, a bill to regulate employment of persons under eighteen years of age and to provide minimum rates of compensation to be paid employees, is a scheme to discredit Congress," the legislative representatives told Mr. Connery.

"One of the arguments used against the Child Labor Amendment," the letter added, "is that Congress would be more liberal than the States and would prohibit, regulate and limit the labor of children under the age of eighteen.

Unfavorable to Labor

"Representative Rich is the only member of Congress to our knowledge who has practically a one hundred per cent unfavorable record on measures of interest to labor. If he was in favor of the Child Labor Amendment, he would not have introduced the bill. It not only fixes the wages of employees under eighteen years of age at 70 cents per hour, but provides that employees eighteen years of age or older shall receive 28 cents per hour. He not only desires to regulate the employment of persons under eighteen years of age, but has gone beyond that age.

"We are sure that the bill will be used for propaganda purposes to discredit Congress and thereby help those who argue that Congress would be more liberal than the States in order to defeat ratification of the Child Labor Amendment."

Manages Woolen Mill

It was pointed out at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor that Representative Rich in drafting the bill did not consult the A. F. of L. National Child Labor Committee, or any other national agency interested in child labor legislation.

COURT FINES NEW JERSEY NRA WAGE CHISELER $500

Clothing Concern Paid 34 Cents an Hour Less Code Scale and Added Four Hours to Maximum Work Week.

Camden, N. J.—Federal Judge John Boyd Avis found the Perfect Coat & Suit Company of Camden guilty of persistent violation of wage and hours provisions of the National Coat and Suit Code, fined the company $500, and ordered restitution of the amounts due the concern's employes to make up the underpayments.

The code prescribes 35 hours as the maximum work week and 81 cents an hour minimum wage. The information filed against the company by the National Coat and Suit Authority cited four counts of violation of the maximum weekly hours and six counts of minimum wage violation. It was charged that the company's employes, during a certain period, worked between 39 and 40 hours a week, and that six employes were paid at the rate of 47 cents an hour. Herman Saluk, president of the company, pleaded guilty on all ten counts.

Leniency Asked for Code Violator

The dispute was taken into court after investigation by the Coat and Suit Code Authority, complaints to the code and the company refused to conform. George W. Alger, director of the Authority's Industrial Relations Section, and Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Petroleum Administrator, conferred with Judge Avis, urging leniency, inasmuch as the company had already paid $1053.09 to F. Nathan Wolf, secretary of the National Coat and Suit Authority, and that the money would be distributed to the workers who were underpaid.

TEXTILE WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST "STRETCH OUT"

Greenville, S. C.—The employees of the Victor-Monaghan textile plant at Walhalla, near here, walked out in protest against the intensive application of the stretch out system.

Paul Blanshard, organizer of the United Textile Workers Union, declared that workers had been given more machines to tend for the same wages heretofore. Operatives formerly running 16 looms now have 144.

SALES TAX RAISES LABOR'S COST OF LIVING, RALSTON DECLARES

Los Angeles, Calif.—A stinging denunciation of the sales tax as a detriment to working men and women was issued by Jackson H. Ralston in a statement here in support of the position of the California State Federation of Labor in favor of a constitutional amendment to abolish this unjust method of securing funds to defray the expenses of the State Government.

Mr. Ralston formerly lived in Washington, D. C., where he was for many years legal adviser of the Northwestern Federation of Labor and one of the Federation's counsel in the famous Hitchman Coal & Coke Company case. A few years ago he retired as an attorney and came to Los Angeles to live.

Pointing out that the present sales tax imposes a burden of fifty million dollars annually on the consumers, who are largely composed of working men and women, and that this sum represents an average contribution or exaction of $4 per annum upon every man, woman and child, Mr. Ralston said:

Right to Exist

"In the case of the worker we will assume that he and his family buy only half the average just indicated, and therefore pay but $4 each, and further assume that the family averages five—not the former six—members. Then the family pays to the State before it has any right to exist the sum of $20 per annum. This amount is paid out in driblets, but the sum total is fully the amount named.

"In the case of the head of the household it means that from three to ten days in the year (according to his rate of pay) he labors for the State, that for the benefit of the family.

"But the evil does not end with the performance of labor for the State for which the worker receives absolutely no compensation. The money he pays to the State obviously he cannot use for himself or his family, and this affects the whole community. The overcoat he really needs or the suit of clothes, either costing something like $15 or $20, he must go without; or the dresses the use of which his wife finds necessary she must go without, or the physician's bill must go unpaid, or furniture must remain unpurchased, or his house go unpainted, or other useful and important things left without attention.

The Vicious Circle

"Again, what does this signify? It means that tailors and dressmakers are to such an extent unemployed, that the physician will hesitate to attend, that the painter is without work, that the furniture manufacturer or worker produces so much less, that the unemployed make the market for work so much the worse and so on.

"Thus it is that the sales tax directly tends to paralyze industry in every shape, and for this reason as well as for many others the State Federation of Labor was wise in declaring its intention to secure the passage of a constitutional amendment doing away with it."

In place of the unjust sales tax, Mr. Ralston recommended the single tax on land values.

COMMUNISTIC-COMPETITIVE ECONOMIC ORDER VISIONED

Prof. Berle Says NRA Is Not Enough to Prevent Future Breakdown

New York.—"I cannot accept the simple thesis that the depression, which I think we are now ending, is merely a depression to be solved by a recovery," Prof. A. J. Berle, Jr., one of the original members of the "brain trust" and now City Chamberlain of New York, told more than 1,000 prominent men and women at the "brain trust" luncheon of the League for Political Education in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Astor here. "Recovery is a necessary alone," he added, "but reform, and both of them at once."

He said we are in a "great transition period" long foreseen by students of the growth of the modern economic system, and added:

"Can we develop a national thought capable of grasping it and capable of dealing with it? After all, governments can only build on a framework provided national thought. They can only give tangible form to the ideas already accepted."

He claimed the Recovery Program had saved the existing economic mechanism from the greatest breakdown in a history of recurrent crises, but that another crisis more terrible was inevitable within a few years unless the existing mechanisms were revised.

"Somewhere between the Communistic theories of Karl Marx and the theory of unrestricted competition," he said, "it is time the United States attempted to find out what kind of life it wants to lead."

HUMANITY OF PENSIONS FOR AGED STRESSED BY SENATE COMMITTEE

Washington.—The essential humaneness of pensions to provide assistance against old-age want is emphasized in the report of the United States Senate Committee on the District of Columbia recommending passage of an old-age pension law for the aged of the Nation's capital.

Persons 65 years of age are eligible for pensions. The committee proceeded on the "flexible" provision theory, which adjusts the amount of the pension according to the need of the recipient, but provides that in no case shall it exceed $35 per month.

Most Large Countries Pension the Aged

"The bill," the committee report said, "is based on the principle that it is more effective, humane, and in many cases more economical to care for the aged persons with their own families by small payments than to carry their support in institutions where they are severed from their families.

"Legislation on a national scale substantially similar to the measure here reported has been enacted in practically all large countries of the world with the exception of China and India. The actuarial similar in most respects are now in effect in 28 States and in the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii. The essential provisions of the bill are as follows:

Relief Is Controlled

"It provides for persons of good character, 65 years of age or over, who are citizens of the United States and have resided in the District of Columbia for not less than 10 years immediately preceding solicitation of assistance, and who without children or others financially able to support them and legally responsible for their support, a means of obtaining, after a careful investigation, regular financial assistance while they are without means of support, and a modest amount for burial expenses at death.

"The bill controls the granting of relief by providing for the issuance, after thorough examination of the pertinent facts, of a certificate directed to the Secretary of the Treasury, stating the identity of the claimant and the amount of weekly payment; this certificate to be renewed annually. The bill also provides for the withdrawal or modification of the relief granted in the event that property or income is acquired during its term. The effective date of the measure will depend upon the appropriation of money provided for administration and for the payment of benefits."

Blanton Blocks Bill in House

The bill recommended by the Senate Committee is a compromise based on four separate bills introduced, respectively, by Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas, Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York, Representative Mary T. Norton of New Jersey, and Representative Loring M. Black, Jr. of New York.

The Capper-Norton bill has already been favorably reported by the House Committee on the District of Columbia, but its enactment has been blocked by opposition of Representative Thomas L. Blanton of Texas, who made use of every possible parliamentary ruse to prevent action on the measure.

TEXTILE UNION ASKS PRESIDENT'S HELP IN SECURING SHORTER HOURS

"Stretch-out" System Applied Under NRA Codes Throws Thousands into Jobless Army.—Cut in Length of Work Week Is the Only Means to Check Unemployment.

New York.—The intensive application of the "stretch-out" system and other speed-up practices by textile manufacturers have thrown thousands of workers into the jobless army, without hope for re-employment, declared Thomas F. McMahon, president, and James Starr, secretary-treasurer of the United Textile Workers of America, in a letter to President Roosevelt requesting his support in securing shorter hours for the textile industry.

Unemployment Increases

"Unemployment in the textile industry is increasing by leaps and bounds," the letter said. "Code authorities are instituting forced curtailment programs and prospects for the industry during the next few months are indicative that conditions of employment will become worse. Production is outstepping consumer demand to such an extent that we feel the Administration should recognize the grave danger of further delay in applying the remedy."

Workers Displaced by Thousands

"Since the advent of the 'stretch-out system' or 'exceeding the machine limit' there is no such thing as permanent employment, and in all our arguments and briefs submitted to the Administration, we have contended that eighty (80) machine hours were entirely too much and would not provide the necessary employment and the equivalent purchasing power.

"This is exactly what has happened. Workers are being displaced by the thousands. Many employers are trying to even up their costs by increasing the unit of production. Markets are flooded and the mills are compelled to announce curtailment periods, thereby depriving the workers of their wages and throwing them back once more on the mercy of charity.

Shorter Hours Only Remedy

"Your statement on March 5 last and General Johnson's later announcement relative to shorter hours appealed to us as being a proper and sound approach to this problem.

"Although the blight of unemployment has not, to any great extent, reached into all textile communities, we would ask you to order a survey of the entire industry in order that you might learn just how serious this problem is.

"We would refer you especially to the New England States, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Reports received in our office from the South lead us to believe that it will only be a short time before hundreds of thousands of Southern workers will likewise be affected.

Labor Under Code Is Jeopardized

"There are over 1,000,000 workers in the textile industry. The cotton code was the first code approved by the Administration. We recognized its advantages, appreciated its benefits, and on several occasions have tried to point out its defects, and the need for amendment.

"Our emergency committee, after serious consideration of this problem, authorized the officials to make an appeal to you, in order that we might not return to the deplorable conditions existing before the code, when unemployment threatened the very structure of our Constitutional Government.

"We are convinced that shorter hours will aid materially in the solution of this problem. We would ask your support in this direction."

WISCONSIN FINDS JOBS FOR 37,277 UNEMPLOYED

Madison, Wis.—During the period January 2 to April 28 Wisconsin's nine state employment offices found jobs for 37,277 out of 53,617 applicants, the State Industrial Commission announced.

Employers were required by 54 employers who previously had not used the State offices.

Applicants for jobs are classified as to their regular occupations so as to furnish employers with lists of persons best qualified for any particular work on short notice. A complete list of work opportunities in various lines provides similar service for persons who are "hunting" jobs in order that they may buy a living for themselves and their families.

In Wisconsin, as in other States, the workers are confronted with a situation described by a Chinaman who said it is a case of "no jobee, no live"—except on the starvation rations of charity relief.

Congressional Leaders Ban Passage Of Labor Measures, Green Declares

LONGSHOREMAN KILLED IN GALVESTON STRIKE

Police Charge Company Gunmen With Murder

Galveston, Texas.—One picket was killed and another wounded in an altercation which broke out in the longshoremen's strike here between private gunmen in the employ of the Clyde-Mallory Company and the strikers. The gunmen were piloting two truckloads of strikebreakers to unload a vessel and rammed the picket line. Meeting with resistance, the gunmen attacked the pickets, killing one and seriously injuring another.

The police filed charges of murder and assault to murder against Frank S. Green, R. L. T. Johnson and B. Porter, special guards for the Mallory Line.

DEALERS FIGHT CHEAP ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Atlanta, Ga.—A militant fight against the plan of the Tennessee Valley Authority to increase the use of electric power and light by the sale of low-priced electrical appliances through the Electric Home and Farm Authority was begun by the Atlanta electric refrigerator dealers who challenged the constitutionality of the proposal by obtaining a temporary injunction preventing the Georgia Power Company from participating in the sale.

Asserting that they would lose investments of $400,000 in their businesses if the TVA project is operated and claiming that 800 more dealers in Georgia would have their investments similarly destroyed, the distributors declared the spirit and purpose of the Act creating the Tennessee Valley Authority is "wholly beyond any powers which Congress could constitutionally have given."

NEW YORK'S EMPLOYMENT OFFICE FINDS MANY JOBS

Locates Work for 2,000 Idle Per Week—890,000 on Waiting List

Albany, N. Y.—Workers placed in private employment by the new public employment offices in New York State showed sharp increases in the first two weeks of April over March figures and are the highest for 1934, Industrial Commissioner Frank C. Andrews announced in making public a detailed report for the Division of Employment of the State Department of Labor and the National Employment Service.

Placements in private employment in the State in March and April were 22.2 per cent more than the March rate for the same period of time. The average March rate of 2,248 placements per week was a substantial increase over the rate of 1,502 per week in February.

"State-wide coverage by the Public Employment Service is just getting under way," Mr. Andrews said. "Until last Fall the only Public Employment Service was the Division of Employment of the State Department of Labor, which maintains offices in nine counties in the State covering the principal industrial areas.

"Since then this service has been extended and supplemented by the establishment of the National Reemployment Service with representatives in the remaining 48 counties of the State.

"The service now has 890,000 workers registered. These workers are classified by training and experience and local managers are prepared to refer to employers all types of unskilled, semi-skilled and highly skilled workers, including both labor and all classes of clerical and professional workers. No fee is charged employer or worker."

JOBS FOR STRIKERS WON BY SHOE WORKERS' UNION

Milwaukee, Wis.—The five weeks' strike of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union here against the E. B. Shoe Co. was settled when the strikers voted to accept a compromise agreement providing that all strikebreakers shall be discharged, that 19 strikers employed in the main plant are to be employed immediately and that 39 strikers in the second plant, now closed, will be given preference in employment as soon as the plant is re-opened. Officials of the company also agreed to meet with committees of its union employees to settle future grievances.

An application by the company for an injunction to stop picketing, pending before Federal Judge F. A. Geiger, was dismissed on the ground that the strike had been settled and picketing ended.

POLICE KILL WORKERS FOR PROTECTING JOBS

Athens, Greece.—The determination of the government authorities in Greece to kill workers who in the desire to save their jobs go so far as to incapacitate labor-displacing machinery was registered in the blood of the toilers in Kalamata Harbor when police and New York Central loading machine gun fire dispersed strikers whom it was alleged were attempting to dismantle the new grain-loading devices installed in the harbor, which would throw a large number of men into the army of the unemployed.

The machine gun attack killed six workers and injured an undetermined number. Despite the slaughter, the strikers held their ground.

A. F. of L. Chief Says Big Business Has Bluffed Congress Into Blocking Bills Designed To Benefit Working Men and Women.

Wagner Disputes Act, Connery 30-Hour Week Bill, Wagner-Lewis Unemployment Insurance Bill, and La Follette Ten Billion Dollar Public Works Bill, Put on Legislative Black-List in Interest of Anti-Labor Employers.

Washington.—The definite charge that those responsible for the legislative program in Congress have succumbed to the opposition of anti-union manufacturers' associations to the enactment of the Wagner Disputes Act and the other labor measures during this session of Congress and to make no effort to bring them before either the House of Representatives or the Senate, characterized a statement by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, on the status of Federal labor legislation.

"Apparently those who are in charge of the legislative program in Congress have determined that the measures sponsored by Labor and in which Labor is deeply interested shall not pass," Mr. Green said.

"These measures endorsed by Labor," he added, "include the Wagner Disputes Act, the Wagner-Lewis Unemployment Insurance measure, the Connery six-hour day and thirty-hour workweek bill, the La Follette Ten Billion Dollar appropriation for public works, and the amendment to the Railway Labor Act.

"None of these measures have been passed by either branch of Congress. They seem to be held up by those who determine what measures shall or shall not be acted upon by Congress.

"There is no doubt in the minds of Labor that these labor bills would be enacted into law if the Members of Congress were given an opportunity to vote upon them.

OPPOSITION CENTERED ON WAGNER BILL

"The representatives of big business, manufacturers' associations, employers of labor, who are uncompromising in their attitude toward Organized Labor, centered their opposition upon the Wagner Disputes Act.

"Through their strong opposition to this measure they are fighting for the maintenance and protection of their own organized, financed and fostered company unions.

"It seems inconceivable that Congress would yield to such opposition.

"It is a purely selfish opposition.

"It is based upon the determination of employing corporations and manufacturers' associations to control and dominate the economic life of the workers.

"It is quite obvious that Congress will adjourn within the near future.

"Unless action is taken soon, the record will show that Congress failed Labor, in that it refused to enact a single measure sponsored by Labor into law.

"Labor will study the record made and will interpret the failure of Congress to pass the Wagner Disputes Act and the other measures sponsored by Labor as a surrender on the part of Congress to the enemies of Labor and to the representatives of big business and vested interests."

ST. LOUIS PACKING HOUSE WORKERS DECLARE STRIKE

Wage Increase and 32-Hour Week Included in Demands

St. Louis, Mo.—A strike affecting virtually all the packing houses of St. Louis was called at a mass meeting of union butchers and meat cutters.

Picketing of major plants was ordered immediately and union men were detailed to the plants nightly. Coincidentally, police officials ordered squads assigned to guard the plants.

The strike call, involving about 2,500 workers, included plants here of Armour & Co., Swift & Co., and those of several other major concerns. About twenty-five packers are included in the strike area.

Employes of the packing houses are seeking minimum wages of 75 cents an hour for butchers and 50 cents an hour for laborers, with a guarantee of a 32-hour week. The action was taken in protest against what union officials termed a failure on the part of employers to heed union demands.